



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

ANGELA FAHERTY, PH.D.
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: VII.B.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Angela Faherty, Ph.D., Acting Commissioner*

Date: August 10, 2010

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Design and Funding Approval Consideration*; RSU #9, Mt. Blue High School and Foster Career and Technical Center, construction project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The High School/Technical Center will be constructed in Farmington, Maine, and house 925 students, grades 9 through 12. The project received Concept Approval on July 15, 2009. The subsequent referendum passed with a 76% vote in favor of the project.

The Mt. Blue High School and Foster Career and Technical Center serve high school students from nine communities in central Franklin County and vocational/technical students from Mt. Blue High School, Jay High School, Livermore Falls High School, and Mt. Abram High School.

The design and program has been developed with a great deal of community involvement and integrates the academic and vocational offerings. The project also will accommodate post secondary educational offerings and space for private industry start up opportunities. The project is very challenging in that students will remain on campus during the three years of construction and renovation.

The Design and Funding Approval is being requested pursuant to MRSA Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

The basic design of the project and budget have not changed since Concept Approval, and it has met the needed criteria to move forward which will allow it to be bonded and constructed on schedule.

RSU #9 is requesting Design and Funding Approval for an addition and renovation of the high school/technical center qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, and

- RSU #9 proposed school construction project is eligible for school construction under MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 609;
- The proposed project and authorized method of financing are in the best interest of the State of Maine and RSU #9.

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Design & Funding Approval Consideration

RSU #9 Mt. Blue High School and Foster Career & Technical Center

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- The RSU #9 estimated capital outlay expenditures are reasonable; and
- The RSU #9 proposed project is in compliance with MRSA Title 20-A, Chapter 301, as it relates to special education facilities.

Project Information

Project: Mt. Blue High School/Foster Career and Technical Center

Superintendent: Dr. Michael Cormier

Mt. Blue HS Principal: Monique Poulin Vocational Director: Glen Kapiloff

Architect: Lyndon Keck, AIA, LEED^{AP}, PDT Architects

School(s) to be closed: None

Project Budget Information

Concept Approval Date: July 15, 2009

Total Project Cost: \$64,721,310

Local Only (no State participation): \$3,515,953

Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$60,016,482

Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$189,846

Anticipated Funds from Local Fund Raising: \$999,029

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Construction Committee at the August 2, 2010, meeting voted unanimously to recommend the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #9 for a high school/technical center in Farmington, Maine.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Design and Funding Approval to RSU #9 for a high school/technical center in Farmington, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the design and funding budget as presented.**

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

**This approval constitutes Design & Funding Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”